

NOTES

Indicator

Scholastic Aptitude Test I (SAT I) scores

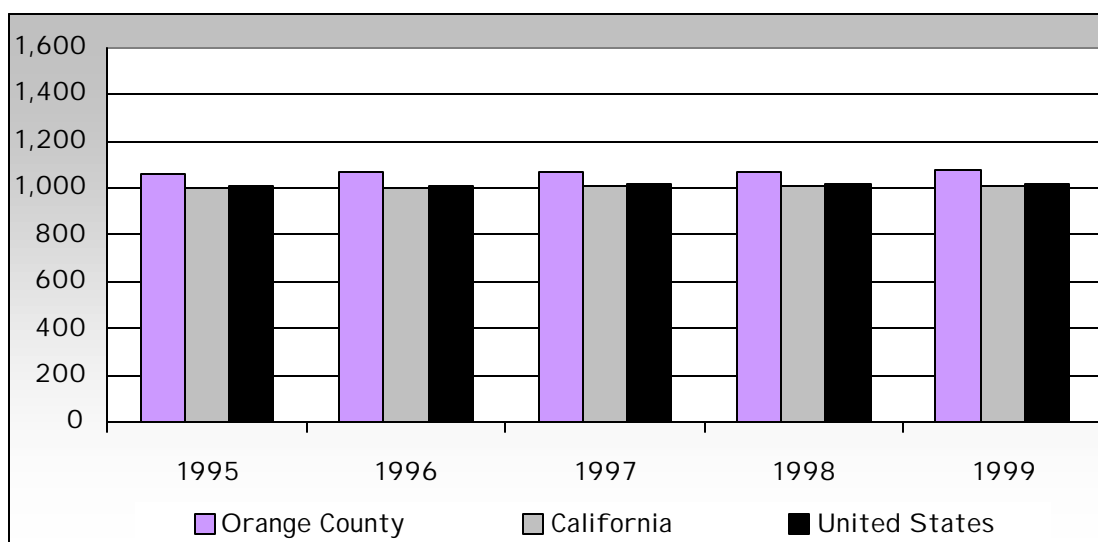
Definition

Average Math and Verbal SAT I scores.

Findings

The average SAT I score for Orange County seniors in 1999/2000 was 1,074, compared to 1,009 for California and 1,092 for the United States. Results by subject indicate the average math score (556) was higher than the average verbal score (518). Of all 28,975 Orange County seniors in 1999/2000, 40.8% took the SAT I exam.

Average SAT I Scores for Orange County, California, and the United States 1995-1999



Trends

From 1995 to 1999, the average SAT I total score for Orange County test takers increased by 1.4% (1,059 to 1,074). During that same period, California and the United States have also had slight increases in average SAT I scores of 1.2% (997 to 1,009) and 0.9% (1,010 to 1,019), respectively. Orange County seniors have consistently scored higher on the math portion of the exam than on the verbal section. For additional trends in county, state and national subject scores, please see page 121 of the supplemental tables.

STATEWIDE:
In 1999/00, approximately 35% (107,926) of California's 309,866 high school graduates met the UC/CSU college eligibility requirements. That same school year, 126,786, or 36.45%, of California high school seniors took the SAT-1. Their average verbal score was 492 and their average math score was 517, for an average combined score of 1,009.¹

- RELATED INDICATORS:**
- Ave. Dollar Expenditure per Pupil
 - High School Dropout and Graduation Rates

Summary

College Board data shows that the education level of students' parents plays a factor in SAT scores across all ethnic groups. Students whose parents have a four-year college degree average 107 points ahead of students whose parents have a high school diploma.

College-Ready High School Seniors

- In the Fall of 1999, almost 62% of Orange County graduates (class of 1998/99) went on to attend a UC, CSU, or community college as first-time freshmen.
- In 1999/00, 38%, or 10,232, Orange County graduates completed the course sequence to meet the eligibility criteria required for admission to a University of California or a California State University for the Fall of 2000.
- In 1999/00, 11,817 Orange County seniors took the SAT I. Of those who took the SAT I, 7,638, or almost 65%, had a combined score of 1,000 or above.
- Of the 1999/00 graduates in Orange County who completed the UC or CSU entrance requirements, 58% were Non-Hispanic White, 28% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 12% were Hispanic, 1% were African American, and 1% were American Indian.
- In 1999/00, 21% of Orange County's juniors and seniors received college credit through Advance Placement examinations.

Implications

- The SAT's purpose is to predict first-year college grades. However, testmakers acknowledge that high school grade point average or class rank are better predictors of first-year university/college grades.
- There is also a growing concern that the SAT favors students who can afford coaching over those who cannot, affluent students from suburban schools over poor urban students, and students who have parents with a college education.
- Research suggests that SAT scores do not predict Hispanic first-year students' grades as accurately as it does for white students' grades. African Americans, Hispanics, new Asian immigrants and other minorities tend to score significantly lower on the SAT than White students do.

NOTES



SEE
SUPPLEMENTAL
TABLES FOR
ADDITIONAL
DATA

NATIONWIDE:
According to the
National School
Boards
Association, the
1999/2000 SAT
combined verbal
and math score
was 1,019: 505
average verbal
score and 514
average math
score.²

DATA SOURCE:
Orange County
Department of
Education

NOTES:
¹California
Department of
Education
²Education Vital
Signs, 2000: State
of the States

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: EDUCATION

Indicator

SAT I Scores

Average Combined Verbal and Math SAT Scores

Orange County	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Verbal	509	512	516	513	516	518
Math	544	547	552	553	553	556
Combined	1,053	1,059	1,068	1,066	1,069	1,074
California Combined	991	997	1,001	1,004	1,007	1,009
United States Combined*	1,003	1,010	1,013	1,016	1,017	1,019

*United States figures reflect public and private schools results combined.

Source: California Department of Education.